

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.- 73. (Canceled)

74. (Currently Amended) An information rate control function means for controlling a communication rate for the transmission of information between a first mobile terminals terminal and a second mobile terminal via a wireless telecommunication system comprising:

a first determining means adapted to determine a maximum information transmission rates rate along each a first air interface between an a first access node and [[a]] the first mobile terminal;

a second determining means in communication with the first determining means and adapted to determine a maximum information transmission rate along a second air interface between a second access node and the second mobile terminal, wherein the access nodes are adapted to monitor and control air interface resources and monitor the availability of the resources wherein the resources relate to an operation of a codec of a mobile terminal;

a selection means adapted to select a lowest one of the determined maximum information transmission rates; and

an authorizing or establishment means adapted to authorize or establish a communication rate no greater than the selected lowest rate, ~~wherein the communication rate of the codec can be altered based on a type of traffic transmitted via the air interfaces.~~

75. (Previously Presented) The information rate control function means of claim 74, adapted to communicate the plurality of maximum information transmission rates across a core network as messages within 1.366.2 Type 3 cells of an ATM AAL2 protocol.

76. (Previously Presented) The information rate control function means of claim 74, adapted to communicate the plurality of maximum information transmission rates across a core network as messages within RTP packets of an IP protocol.

77. (Currently Amended) A wireless telecommunications system, comprising:

at least one access network connected to a core network;

~~at least a first mobile terminal and a second endpoint mobile terminal, comprising wireless mobile terminals, in communication with each other across the core network via the at least one access network across the core network;~~

~~at least a first telecommunication node and a second telecommunication node adapted to set information transmission rates to and from the first and second endpoint mobile terminals; and~~

~~at least a first air interface and a second air interface comprising, respectively, the first and second telecommunication nodes, wherein the first and second interfaces are adapted to control air interface resources and monitor the availability of the resources; the at least first and second endpoints mobile terminals communicating with the at least one access network across the first and second air interfaces, at least one of the interfaces having a variable maximum information transmission rate, wherein the resources relate to an operation of a codec of each of the wireless mobile terminals;~~

~~wherein the first and second telecommunications nodes respectively are each adapted to signal to a remote node the maximum information transmission rate supportable by the first and the second air interfaces, the remote node adapted to compare the maximum information transmission rates that can be supported by the first and second interfaces, wherein the information transmission rates of the codecs can be altered based on the maximum information transmission rate comparison.~~

78. – 80. (Canceled)

81. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a communication rate for transmission of information between mobile terminals in a wireless telecommunication system having a core network and a plurality of access nodes in communication with the core network, comprising the steps of:

determining a ~~plurality of~~ maximum information transmission ~~rates~~ rate along each air interface established between an access node and a respective mobile terminal, ~~each mobile terminal including a codec~~;

selecting the lowest one of the plurality of maximum information transmission rates, and

authorizing a communication rate no greater than the selected lowest rate.

82. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 81, wherein the communication rate is dynamically authorized during a communication session ~~between~~ including an access node and a respective mobile terminal.

83. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 81~~ claim 82, wherein the communication rate is authorized at the set up of the communication session.

84. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 81~~ claim 82, wherein the communication rate is authorized prior to the set up of the communication session.

85. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 81, further including the step of communicating the plurality of maximum information transmission rates across the core network as messages within 1.366.2 Type 3 cells of an ATM AAL2 protocol.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 81, further including the step of communicating the plurality of maximum information transmission rates across the core network as messages within RTP packets of an IP protocol.

87. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling the rate of information transmission between first and second endpoints, ~~comprising wireless mobile terminals~~ that communicate with each other via access networks separated by a core network, information transmission rates to and from between the first and second endpoints and a respective air interface with an access network being respectively set by first and second telecommunication nodes, wherein the first and second telecommunication nodes are adapted to ~~control air interface resources and monitor the availability of the resources, the first and second endpoints wirelessly communicating with one of the access networks~~ maximum information transmission rate respectively across the first and the second air interfaces, ~~at least one of the air interfaces having a variable maximum information transmission rate~~, the method including the steps of:

signaling by the first and second telecommunications nodes respectively to a remote node the maximum information transmission rate supportable by the first and the second air interfaces, ~~wherein the resources relate to an operation of a codec of each of the endpoints;~~

comparing the maximum information transmission rates supportable by the first and second air interfaces; and

setting the information transmission rate of each endpoint to a rate not ~~exceed~~ exceeding that of the lower of the maximum information air interface transmission rates.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 87, wherein the remote node signaled by each of the first and second telecommunications nodes is the other of the first and second telecommunications nodes.

89. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 87, wherein the comparing of the maximum information transmission rates supportable by the first and second air interfaces is performed in each of the first and second telecommunications nodes.

90. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 87, wherein the setting of the information transmission rate of each endpoint to not exceed that of the lower of the maximum information transmission rates further comprises setting the rate of operation of a codec to the lower of the maximum information transmission rates.

91. (New) A method for controlling the transmission rate for a communication session between at least two endpoints via respective air interfaces to access networks in communication with a core network, the method comprising the steps of:

signaling by a first telecommunication node operable to monitor a first air interface, the first telecommunication node signaling to communicate a first maximum air interface transmission rate to a remote node, the first maximum air interface transmission rate being the current maximum supportable rate for communication by a first endpoint with its respective access network via the first air interface;

comparing a second maximum air interface transmission rate with the first maximum air interface transmission rate, the second maximum air interface transmission rate being the current maximum supportable rate for communication by a second endpoint with its respective access network via a second air interface; and

setting the communication session transmission rate at a rate not greater than the lowest of the first maximum air interface transmission rate and the second maximum air interface transmission rate.

92. (New) The method of claim 91, further comprising signaling by a second telecommunication node operable to monitor the second air interface, the second telecommunication node signaling to communicate the second maximum air interface transmission rate to the remote node, wherein the comparing step is performed in the remote node, and wherein the remote node is not the second telecommunication node.

93. (New) The method of claim 91, wherein the remote node is a second telecommunication node, and wherein the comparing step is performed in the second telecommunication node.

94. (New) The method of claim 91, further comprising signaling by a second telecommunication node operable to monitor the second air interface, the second telecommunication node signaling to communicate the second maximum air interface transmission rate to a second remote node.

95. (New) The method of claim 94, wherein the remote node is the second telecommunication node and wherein the second remote node is the first telecommunication node.

96. (New) The method of claim 95, wherein setting the communication session transmission rate comprises signaling by the first telecommunication node and the second telecommunication node to, respectively, a first endpoint and a second endpoint to control their respective encoding rates.